

Message Text

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QMEMBASSY SOFIA 1870

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USDEL VLADIVOSTOK

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TOKYO FOR AMB. STOESSEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJECT: NEW POLITICAL ACCOLADE FOR BREZHNEV

1. THE NEW AND ENLARGED POLITICAL ACCOLADE FOR BREZHNEV WHICH WAS LAUNCHED AT TASHKENT ONE MONTH AGO HAS APPEARED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN LEAD EDITORIAL OF THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT SOVIET NEWSPAPER. THE EDITORIAL IN THE MOSCOW EVENING EDITION OF IZVESTIYA FOR NOVEMBER 21 COVERED RECENT SOVIET DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES IN IMPLEMENTING THE GOALS OF THE PARTY AND ITS "CENTRAL COMMITTEE HEADED BY GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CPSU CC L.I. BREZHNEV." PRAVDA TODAY FINESSED THE MATTER BY RUNNING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A CPSU SECRETARIAT DECREE IN THE PLACE OF THE LEAD EDITORIAL.

BUT THE ABRIDGED PRAVDA REPORTAGE OF RASHIDOV'S OCTOBER 22 SPEECH INCLUDED THE PHRASE.

2. THE TRUE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NEW FORMULATION IS NOT YET CLEAR, BUT IT APPEARS TO BE MORE INCLUSIVE THAN THE STANDARD PHRASE: "THE POLITBURO HEADED BY BREZHNEV". THE NEW PHRASE HAS NOW BEEN UTTERED BY SEVEN REPUBLIC FIRST SECRETARIES, WHICH INCLUDES TWO CANDIDATE MEMBERS OF THE POLITBURO (MASHEROV AND RASHIDOV), AND HAS BEEN REPEATED ON MOSCOW TELEVISION COVERAGE OF THE FRUNZE PARADE OF NOVEMBER 15.

3. THE OCCASIONS AT WHICH THE NEW ACCOLADE APPEARED WERE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF UZBEKISTAN, KIRGIZIA, AND TURKMENIA WHICH WERE ADDRESSED BY SUSLOV, KOSYGIN, AND KIRILENKO WHO THEMSELVES ABSTAINED FROM THIS FORMULA. THE ONLY MOSCOW SPEAKER TO USE THE PHRASE WAS THE MOSCOW CITY SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF IDEOLOGY, V.N. YAGODKIN, IN HIS ASHKHABAD SPEECH.

4. VENUE AND SPEAKERS FOLLOW: (A) TASHKENT (OCTOBER 22)--SH. R. RASHIDOV, P.N. MASHEROV, I.I. BODYUL, S. B. NIYAZBEKOV; (B) FRUNZE (NOVEMBER 2)--T. USUBALIYEV, P. GRISHKYAVICHYUS; (C) ASHKHABAD (NOVEMBER 15) --V.N. YAGODKIN, P.A. PASKAR', A.E. VOSS, M.G. GAPUROV.

5. THE ASHKHABAD PARADE ON NOVEMBER 16 INCLUDED PLACARDS INSCRIBED WITH THE WORDS: "GLORY TO THE LENINIST CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE HEADED BY LEONID IL'ICH BREZHNEV." THIS SLOGAN WAS REPEATED BY THE HURRAH CHANTER IN TELEVISION COVERAGE OF THE PARADE AND THEN GIVEN AGAIN DURING MOSCOW TV NEWS PROGRAM.

6. COMMENT: THE MANNER IN WHICH THE NEW FORMULA HAS BEEN INTRODUCED IS REMINISCENT OF THE WAY IN WHICH THE "POLITBURO HEADED BY BREZHNEV" FORMULA WAS INTRODUCED. FIRST IT APPEARED IN THE CENTRAL ASIAN PERIPHERY IN THE SPEECHES OF LOCAL LEADERS AND THEN GRADUALLY WAS EMPLOYED BY EVER HIGHER PARTY LEADERS UNTIL NOW EVERYBODY BUT BREZHNEV HAS SPOKEN OF THE POLITBURO HEADED BY BREZHNEV.

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